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### WEEKLY NEWS NOTES

(By County Agent Glenn S. Hensley.)

#### Farm Bureau Has Record Annual Meeting.

The growth and interest in the Farm Bureau was well demonstrated by the record-breaking annual meeting held in the Court House last Saturday afternoon. More than sixty representative farmers from all parts of the county were present. These were mainly committeemen who came to represent their own communities. It was very noticeable that the highest type of farmers in the county were the ones who were present and most interested in the Farm Bureau work. The County Agent gave a detailed report of the year's work. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Charles Schuttler, President.  
C. B. Denman, Vice President.  
L. R. Johnson, Secretary.  
M. P. Cayce, Treasurer.  
W. E. Martin, N. J. Meyer, W. J. Martin, Maurice Higley, John Mueller and Will Counts were elected members of the Executive Committee. With this sort of men at the head of the Farm Bureau work, we may expect to see rapid development of the work during the next year.

The following resolutions were submitted by Mr. C. B. Denman and unanimously passed by the Farm Bureau. The resolutions in substance are as follows: That the St. Francois County Farm Bureau express its recommendation to the United States Department of Agriculture and to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, that all cereal grain prices remain under Federal control during the reconstruction period and that speculation in grain futures be abolished for all time. Mr. Denman stated that it is generally known that the packers have been buying corn from Argentine and shipping it to the United States so as to hold the price of corn down and thus force the price of pork and beef to be reduced while they are filling their cold storage plants. As soon as they have done this they can then turn loose of the corn market and as it goes up, the price of pork and beef will also go up, thus enabling them to sell their cold storage meats at a high price when they have been purchased at a much lower one. The consumer gains nothing and the farmer will lose if the price of hogs and cattle drops in the near future, for all the meat products within the next four or five months will have been produced on high priced corn.

Mr. J. K. Jones, District Agricultural Agent, was present and gave a very interesting talk on Farm Bureau work in other counties. Plans were then launched for a week's membership campaign. Thirty-three men volunteered to solicit members for the Farm Bureau. Membership buttons were issued to those joining this organization so that solicitors may be able to recognize members, thus saving time in carrying on their work. The Farm Bureau plans to give every man in the county an opportunity to become a member providing that he is interested in the work. Solicitors are requested to not solicit memberships from anyone who hesitates about joining. It is the policy of the Farm Bureau now to accept as members only those who are interested in the work. If you are interested, call up one of the solicitors in your community and he will take your membership.

#### New Farm Bureau President Represents the Organization at Poplar Bluff

Mr. C. C. Schuttler, president of the St. Francois County Farm Bureau, went to Poplar Bluff on Wednesday of this week to represent the Farm Bureau at a meeting of the Federation of Missouri Commercial Clubs. This meeting will be made up of representatives of civic, commercial, agricultural and women's clubs from all over Missouri and is being held under the auspices of the Federation of Missouri Commercial Clubs. Reconstruction plans of state-wide interest are to be discussed and worked out. It is hoped that it will be possible to have some sort of budget system that will completely eliminate the innumerable movements that result in the continual "passing of the hat" in every town of Missouri. To do this some plan similar to the War Chest, will be arranged for and a budget made out to handle the many charitable movements. Further details of this meeting will be given upon Mr. Schuttler's return.

### COUNTY SCHOOL NOTES

Mrs. E. J. Whitesell of the Koester school writes: "There is one item of interest of late. A boy of eleven who is deaf and dumb enrolled several days ago. He is exceptionally intelligent and I have great hopes of helping him to learn to read before our school closes." Later information is to the effect that Mrs. Whitesell's efforts will be rewarded with success.

The following pupils have just been awarded certificates for five months of perfect attendance without tardiness: Lowell and Lester Drier of the Big River Mills school, and Margaret and Roy Rickus, Irene and Albert Hopkins and Helen Hoeft of the Copenhagen school. Margaret Rickus and Irene Hopkins have completed two years of perfect attendance without tardiness and have each received a large and handsome Diploma of Honor.

The Mosteller and Possum Hollow schools have completed their 1918-19 terms. Said schools were taught by Misses Gladys Stroup and Beulah Moon. Four pupils from the Possum Hollow school completed the common school course, namely: Hazel Wilkerson, Jerry Douglas, Elizabeth and Everett Hamm.

The following circular, recently sent out by State Superintendent of Schools Sam A. Baker is of general interest: "A great deal has been said in the press and from the platform regarding conditions that confront us educationally and otherwise on account of the war. Some of these problems are greatly overdrawn and are not as serious as they seem on the surface. Others are serious enough to command the attention of all thinking people throughout the State. When war was declared many young men offered themselves as a sacrifice to their country. When they left their home town, the bands played, flags waved, and men and women all took a holiday to bid farewell to the boys who were leaving. Many speakers dwelt upon the service that these young men were rendering to the country and told them in glowing terms of the good things that awaited them on their return.

Some of those who volunteered for service were high school students. They are now coming home, having in mind all the promises that were made to them before they went away. Many of them desire to finish their education. They have an ambition to go on through high school. They are larger mentally and physically now than when they went away, and when they apply for admission to the high school, which they were attending when they volunteered for service in the army or navy, they are asked in many instances "to go back and sit down" with the boys and girls who were one or two years behind them when they went away. These returning soldiers and sailors feel humiliated at having to take up the work where they left off.

It is true our traditions for many years hold us rigidly to the idea of having so many book units before permitting one to graduate, but the war has brought about unusual conditions and unusual methods must be used in order to meet the problems of today. Is it better to discourage these boys so that they will never complete their education, or should we overthrow our traditions and make special concessions to enable them to get started again in the right path educationally? To my mind there is only one way to answer this question. My suggestion and recommendation to school authorities is that if there are not enough elective subjects in the high school for these returned soldiers and sailors to make up a program, then special courses should be arranged so that they may enter school and enter the class to which they would have belonged had they stayed at home instead of volunteering for service. Archimedes, the mathematician, worked on his circles and problems while the soldiers of the enemy surrounded the city in which he was at work. Soon they entered the city and found the house in which Archimedes was at work, but so strongly he was wedded to traditions that all he could say when the soldiers appeared upon the scene was, "Oh, do not spoil my circles!"

In order to do justice to these boys who were willing to make the supreme sacrifice, it may be better to spoil circles. At least no boy should be penalized for joining the colors. If he would have been in the Senior class, had he remained at home, put him there now and give him a diploma. His knowledge of Science, Geography, History and even of Mathematics, obtained in the service, will counterbalance the lack of book units necessary for graduation. The colleges and universities will be asked to make like concessions, if these boys apply for admission later on."

J. CLYDE AKERS, County Superintendent of Schools

#### Getting Rid of Colds

The easiest and quickest way to get rid of a cold is to take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. This preparation has been in use for many years and its value fully proven. No matter what remedy you use, however, care must be taken not to contract a second cold before you have recovered from the first one, and there is serious danger of this. A man of middle age or older should go to bed and stay in bed until fully recovered. It is better to stay in bed three days at the start than three weeks later on. Obtainable everywhere. (adv.)

### FARM SEEDS AND BINDER TWINE

The Missouri Farmers' Association is in position to supply any farmer who belongs to a farm club with the wholesale price on farm seeds such as Red Clover, Alsike Clover, Sweet Clover, Alfalfa, Timothy, Sudan Grass, Cane-seed, Red Top, Bluegrass, Orchard grass, Millet, Cowpeas, Soybeans, etc.—and furthermore it guarantees every pound of the seed sent out under its auspices to be of the very highest quality. It is supplying these seeds for its more than 30,000 members at a big money saving price, and farmers who are in the market should act immediately before the supply gives out. The Association is also booking orders for the best of Standard binder twine which will cost its members less than the average retail dealer will have to pay. Farmers who order this twine will have until April 1st to either increase or cut down the amount of their orders and the twine will be paid for when delivered—delivery being accepted as soon after April 1st as possible. The saving on twine alone will pay the first year's dues in the Missouri Farmers' Association several times over for the average farmer. Wherever possible a 20,000 pound car should be made up at each shipping point. Members can also obtain the wholesale price on wool twine and wool sacks and wherever a carload of wool can be assembled, the association will see that farmers get the highest wholesale price—and this means a big saving.

Also, if you are in need of corn, oats, hay, commercial fertilizers, tankage, cotton seed meal and cake, linseed oilmeal, flour, bran, shorts, coal, salt, the association will get you the lowest wholesale price on any of these commodities—and in the aggregate it means a tremendous saving. If you need spraying materials for your orchard, these can be ordered at a big saving also. From the above the reader should not conclude that the Missouri Farmers' Association is a "Farmers' Store" movement—for except on the above carload commodities it does not invade the local commercial field. It does not, for instance, deal in groceries, hardware, farm implements, lumber, dry goods, clothing, shoes, etc. At this time the Association has over 1000 school house Farm Clubs and scores of these clubs saved over \$1,000 last year. Under its auspices a great many live stock shipping associations are being formed and through such associations members are receiving at least \$1 per cwt. more for their hogs, fat cows and sheep. There are numerous shipping points in the State where these savings amounted to \$25,000 or \$30,000 last year. Why not organize one in your community? Also 50 or 60 Farmers' Elevators are now being financed under the co-operation of the State Association. It employs its own architect and contractor and buys all the elevator machinery at wholesale and thus an elevator can be erected for from \$1500 to \$2000 less under its plans than if a group of farmers acted on their own initiative.

The Association is now represented in over 60 Missouri counties and is growing very fast—it being the intention of the directors to perfect an organization before the present year is out in every school district in the State. Farmers who would like to avail themselves of the above savings should write immediately for a Farm Club address which contains Constitution and By-Laws. Then all that is necessary is to call a school house meeting and form a club. The first year's dues are \$2.50 and the second year \$1.50. Nine out of ten farmers can save this amount many times over. If you want to get in on the farm seed and twine deal there isn't a moment to lose and you should therefore drop a letter to the Missouri Farmers' Association, Columbia, Mo., today!

#### Dreadful Cough Cured

A severe cold is often followed by a rough cough for which Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has proven especially valuable. Mrs. F. W. Olsen, Marysville, Mo., writes: "About two years ago my little boy, Jean, caught a severe cold and coughed dreadfully for days. I tried a number of cough remedies but nothing did him any good until I gave him Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It relieved his cough right away and before he had finished taking one bottle he was cured. I think it is just fine for children." Obtainable everywhere. (adv.)

#### ARE YOU GOING TO SPRAY YOUR APPLES?

Now don't answer the above question by saying, "Well, if I knew it would pay, I believe I would." There is no question but what it will pay and pay well. Eight demonstrations, to show the value of orchard spraying, have been held by the Farm Bureau, in different orchards in the county. The four orchards sprayed by the Farm Bureau in 1917 made large profits. The four sprayed this last year all made profits as shown by the owners' figures, but not such large profits as before on account of the late spring freeze killing nearly all the fruit. The past year was very unfavorable to produce good, sound fruit. The late cold weather injured all the fruit set and heavy spring rains at spraying time often washed a portion of the spray off. But in spite of all these unfavorable conditions all our spraying paid a profit.

You can spray your apple trees three times at the small cost of from 25c to 50c a tree. If spraying only increases your apple yield one-half bushel to the tree, you are still ahead of the game and, as a matter of fact, it usually doubles the yield and greatly increases the value. The first spray is applied just before the trees bloom. If you are interested, stop at the Farm Bureau office and find out what you will need to have so that when the time comes to spray, you will be ready.

A subscription to The Times will help you thro the year

### WHY TEST SEED CORN?

The average Missouri farm grows 25 acres of corn each year. The approximate stand is 72 1-2 per cent. This means that on every Missouri farm there are 5.87 in every 25 acres that are not faithfully at work. By a germination test of every seed ear, a perfect stand, as far as seed is concerned, can be had. Allowing 12 1-2 per cent decrease for unavoidable losses—wind, weather, and pests—a gain of 15 per cent of corn is still possible as a result of testing. This additional 15 per cent of corn would mean approximately 4 1-2 bushels an acre. On the average farm this would total 112 bushels. It costs about 5 cents an acre to test each ear of seed corn. Individual tests are absolutely necessary to attain maximum production.

This, says J. C. Hackleman of the Extension Service of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, is the reason for testing seed corn. From the farmer's viewpoint, no work which he can do in February or even most of March will be any more profitable than testing his seed corn, yet not more than one in twenty Missouri farmers practice it. Obviously, the corn field is an expensive seed tester. Yet these farmers persist in planting untested seed with the result that they must replant or be satisfied with a poor stand, a consequent reduction in yield, and a lower return. It has been remarked that it is some trouble to test seed corn, but it is more trouble to replant. Unfortunately, too many farmers neither test nor replant. A number of seed corn testers, easily made at home, are described in Extension Circular 48.

### HOMEMADE SEED CORN TESTER

The kind of seed corn testers, or germinators, in which the farmer is naturally most interested are those which are simple, and can be quickly and easily made at home. One of the most common ones is the rag doll germinator. The way to make this tester, which is perhaps the least expensive and about as satisfactory as any, is described by J. C. Hackleman in Extension Circular 48 of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture.

Take a piece of muslin 18 inches wide and of any desired length, depending on the number of ears to be tested. If the tester is to accommodate 20 ears of corn, a piece of cloth 18 inches wide and four feet long will be ample. The cloth should be marked off in 2 1-2 or 3 inch squares. These squares may be smaller or larger as occasion demands, but in general the 3 inch square is large enough to accommodate as many kernels as will be used—usually not more than ten. At least six inches of cloth should be allowed on each end of the tester beyond the squares.

After the kernels have been removed from the ear and placed in the numbered squares, the sides of the cloth may be folded over and the "doll" may then be rolled up without fear of disturbing the kernels. The cloth, which was left at either end permits starting and finishing the roll without losing the kernels. The rag doll should be thoroughly moistened either by sprinkling with warm water or by immersing in a bucket of warm (not hot) water for two or three hours. After the cloth has been thoroughly saturated it can be put away in a warm place. The rag doll must not be allowed to dry, as moisture is essential. A good method of maintaining the moisture in the rag doll tester is to put it in a shoe box or a small wooden box and cover it with moist sawdust. As, with other testers, the sprouting kernels must not become chilled, as this will not only retard, but may actually prevent, the germination of the grain.

### FOREIGN FOOD PRICES

The American farmer is going to have to organize and change his methods to compete with such prices as these recently quoted in the Weekly News Letter from the Department of Agriculture:

The Royal Commission in Argentine has purchased cereals for the allies at the following prices per bushel: wheat, \$1.56; oats, \$45c; corn, 62c.

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### BREAK IN THE COLTS NOW

If the two and three-year-old colts destined to have a place in the herd this year have not been broken to harness, they should be given attention at the first opportunity. Begin easy with them remembering that a work horse is often made or marred by the way he is handled in breaking. Get them used to the harness first, says E. H. Hughes of the University of Missouri College of Agriculture. When they become reconciled to the feel of it, set them at light work. Hitch the colt or the team to a skid of some sort and give the first lesson in pulling. Dragging logs out of the woods is good work for them. As soon as it can be done safely, hitch them to the wagon for light hauling. Patience may be required to get a colt to behave well in harness, but a good draft horse will be the result. Winter months, when farm work is at its lowest stage, is the best time to take the young work stock in hand.

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